

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1—SENATORS HORSFORD, RAGGIO, TOWNSEND, LEE, CARE; AMODEI, BREEDEN, CARLTON, CEGAVSKE, COFFIN, COPENING, MATHEWS, MCGINNESS, NOLAN, OLSEN, PARKS, RHOADS, SCHNEIDER, WASHINGTON, WIENER AND WOODHOUSE

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

Read and Adopted

SUMMARY—Urges local government employers and local government employee organizations to mutually address the impacts of the budget shortfall. (BDR R-38)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in **bolded italics** is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging local government employers and local government employee organizations to mutually address the impacts of the budget shortfall.

1 WHEREAS, The continued downturn in the national economy has
2 had a dramatic negative impact on the economy of the State of
3 Nevada, including creating the highest unemployment rate in the
4 history of the State and one of the highest unemployment rates in
5 the country, causing many people to lose their health insurance
6 benefits, placing a burden on the social services provided in the
7 State and forcing many businesses to close and families to lose their
8 jobs and homes; and

9 WHEREAS, The 2009 Session of the Nevada Legislature
10 addressed what was then a looming budget gap by making cuts to
11 the State's budget of about \$1 billion, implementing temporary tax
12 increases amounting to an estimated \$781 million and imposing
13 furlough requirements on state employees which amounted to a 4.6
14 percent temporary reduction in salaries; and

15 WHEREAS, Because recent projections yield an unprecedented
16 budget shortfall of nearly \$900 million, the Legislature has been
17 called into this Special Session to deal with this dire fiscal
18 emergency; and



1 WHEREAS, The Legislature has a constitutional duty to balance
2 the State's budget and therefore is making careful but difficult
3 decisions that include consideration of steep reductions in almost
4 every major governmental program, additional furlough hours for
5 state employees and deviation from the required hours of operation
6 for both state and local governments; and

7 WHEREAS, The support and services provided by local
8 governments in Nevada is critical, and there must be awareness that
9 without consideration of temporary reductions to salaries, massive
10 layoffs will occur through negotiated agreements and further cuts
11 will have to be made to these vital public services; and

12 WHEREAS, It is in the best interest collectively for the State and
13 the local governments to recognize the "shared sacrifice" we all
14 must make to ensure further layoffs will not happen, as those layoffs
15 would in turn have a further negative impact on the State's
16 unemployment rate and mortgage crisis; and

17 WHEREAS, In recognition of this "shared sacrifice," the local
18 government employees have risen to the occasion by making
19 concessions during this difficult time; and

20 WHEREAS, The process of local government collective
21 bargaining in this State historically has been conducted between
22 employers and employees and does not provide an opportunity for
23 the public to raise meaningful questions and offer input; and

24 WHEREAS, A collective bargaining process that allows for more
25 transparency would benefit the public for a better understanding of
26 the process and outcome of the negotiated agreement; now,
27 therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
29 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislature hereby urges local
30 government employers and local government employee
31 organizations to recognize the difficult task with which this
32 Legislature is faced and to recognize the "shared sacrifice" that is
33 necessary to reduce the impact of the crippling budget shortfall on
34 this State; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That these employers and employee organizations
36 are hereby urged to rise to the challenge by recognizing that
37 desperate times call for desperate measures and that now is the time
38 to think outside the box and consider ways to come mutually to the
39 bargaining table outside the clogged bureaucratic process and
40 cooperatively address the budget shortfall in an effort to avoid
41 massive layoffs and cuts to vital public services; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That this Special Session of the Legislature hereby
43 urges the 2011 Regular Session of the Legislature to examine the
44 current process of local government collective bargaining and
45 contract negotiations in this State with the goal of increasing the



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1 transparency to provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to
2 hold local governments and local government employee
3 organizations accountable; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
5 transmit a copy of this resolution to local government employers of
6 this State and the local government employee organizations in this
7 State.

